



# The InfoGram

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## Federal school security guides released

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) released school safety guides in recent weeks. The intended audience for both guides is K-12 schools and administration; however, these guides can assist any stakeholder for whom school violence falls within their job duties including higher education, pre-K, and first responders.

The Department of Homeland Security "[K-12 School Security: A Guide for Preventing and Protecting against Gun Violence](#)" consists of two parts: a PDF document with general security best practices and considerations, and a Microsoft Excel-based security survey schools can use to evaluate physical security.

Together, these resources outline action-oriented security practices and options for consideration based on the results of the individual school's responses to the survey. For more information and assistance, please contact the Office of Academic Engagement at [AcademicEngagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:AcademicEngagement@hq.dhs.gov).

The U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) released "[Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence](#)" (PDF, 1.4 MB) to provide fundamental direction on how to prevent incidents of targeted school violence.

The NTAC also [released a brief](#) (PDF, 75 KB) of the guide that outlines key considerations and steps to creating a targeted violence prevention plan. The NTAC will be distributing copies of these to schools nationwide.

Finally, research associates from the Institute for Intergovernmental Research will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, August 14, from 2-3 p.m. Eastern on the [Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting \(SAR\) Initiative \(NSI\) and the importance of recognizing and reporting SAR to prevent violence at educational facilities](#). The free webinar will cover indicators of suspicious activity, reporting, law enforcement procedures following the report, and privacy and civil rights protections. Registration is required.

We cannot stress enough that even though these resources are intended primarily for schools, responding agencies can also use them as resources when developing school violence response plans, in interagency training and exercises, and as an opportunity to initiate dialog and partnerships with local schools if this has not already occurred.

(Source: Various)

## Planning for complex coordinated terrorist attacks

Complex coordinated terrorist attacks occur with little or no warning and involve multiple strikes synchronized by independent teams. They can employ explosives, firearms, fire, vehicle ramming and other nontraditional weapons. They often result in high numbers of dead and wounded and, because of this, terrorists see complex attacks as successful and it is likely they will continue to attempt them.

Responding agencies have a difficult time planning and preparing for complex attacks. They require a coordinated response and advanced tactical training from a

## Highlights

Federal school security guides released

Planning for complex coordinated terrorist attacks

Patient decontamination after mass chemical exposure



U.S. Fire Administration

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

wide variety of disciplines, unified command, mutual aid agreements, operational and public communications plans, and more.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released “[Planning Considerations: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks](#)” to aid all community partners plan and prepare for these scenarios. This planning guide is for first responders at all levels of government, healthcare partners, infrastructure owners and operators, small businesses, non-profits and volunteer organizations.

The guide identifies capabilities necessary to respond to complex coordinated terrorist attacks using the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment. It provides a comprehensive planning checklist, lists unique characteristics of complex coordinated terrorist attacks, identifies potential challenges, and discusses the six-step planning process as it relates to complex coordinated terrorist attacks.

To see more planning and preparedness guides, see [FEMA’s Strategic and Operational Planning website](#).

(Source: [FEMA](#))

## Patient decontamination after mass chemical exposure

First responders are expected to do the unthinkable and be prepared for a multitude of different threats, among them chemical and biological accidents or attacks. Industrial accidents can happen at any time with mass casualties requiring medical care and decontamination. Also, recent nerve agent exposures and thwarted ricin plots overseas show increased interest in these methods of attack.

[Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) offers several resources for jurisdictions or health organizations wanting to create or improve mass decontamination plans.

- **Patient Decontamination in a Mass Chemical Exposure Incident: National Planning Guidance for Communities** provides guidance for managing patient decontamination in large-scale chemical exposure incidents. It draws on expertise in emergency response, emergency medicine, risk communication and other relevant fields.
- **Primary Response Incident Scene Management (PRISM) Guidance for Chemical Incidents**, developed with input from first responders and agencies in 35 municipalities across 21 states. PRISM aims to ensure all patients exposed to potentially hazardous chemicals receive the most effective treatment possible during the initial stages of an incident. Prompt decontamination is the best way to prevent the serious health consequences of exposure to toxic chemicals.

This guidance is intended for incident commanders, emergency management personnel, and trainers of local response organizations and health care facilities, senior leaders and planners. However, first responders and first receivers, community leaders, scientific researchers and others from the response and emergency management fields will find it useful as well.

(Source: [PHE](#))

The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC). For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

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For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the **National Infrastructure Coordinating Center** by phone at **202-282-9201**, or by email at **[nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)**.